

## VETERINARY TECHNICIAN (OPHTHALMOLOGY) SERIES

Code No.	Class Title	Occ. Area	Work Area	Prob. Period	Effective Date
4656(4082)	Veterinary Technician (Ophthalmology) I	02	445	6 mo.	10/15/84
4657(4082)	Veterinary Technician (Ophthalmology) II	02	445	6 mo.	10/15/84

Promotional Line: 297

### Series Narrative

Employees in this series provide ophthalmologic support and nursing care for animals under care in an animal hospital/clinic or teaching laboratory. They have direct patient and client contact with both large and small animal.

They coordinate out-patient receiving with admission office personnel; prepare patients for and assist in electroretinographic, ultrasonographic, angiographic, and other diagnostic testing; help prepare surgical patients and assist in surgery; and train and direct veterinary medical and technical students and lower level technicians in diagnostic and other procedures as directed by the head of the ophthalmology section.

### DESCRIPTIONS OF LEVELS OF WORK

#### **Level I: Veterinary Technician (Ophthalmology) I** **4656(4082)**

Employees in positions at this level assist veterinary ophthalmologists in ophthalmic surgery and student teaching. They prepare patients for surgery and monitor their recovery, set up operating rooms before surgery, maintain operating room equipment and supplies, under the direct supervision of higher level technicians and the veterinary ophthalmologist, and follow both written and oral instructions. They may also train lower level veterinary technicians.

A Veterinary Technician (Ophthalmology) I typically--

1. assists the veterinary ophthalmologist in charge of out-patient receiving in keeping records, in restraining animals, in administering diagnostic topical medications, and in conducting routine diagnostic tests indicated by the veterinarian
2. assists in admitting and discharging animals for medical or surgical treatments
3. assists in electroretinographic, ultrasonographic, and angiographic diagnostic procedures
4. orients veterinary medicine students and veterinary technician students in restraining animals, record keeping, administering medications, and preparing animals for ophthalmic surgery
5. assists surgeons by opening and preparing surgical and cryosurgical instruments and equipment prior to surgery and cleaning and sterilizing instruments and equipment after use.

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6. conducts external eye photography and ensures that photographic equipment is in working condition and that pictures taken are properly identified
7. assists in teaching laboratories by selecting and setting out equipment needed and by assisting directly in teaching standard ophthalmology skills and procedures to veterinary medicine students
8. assists in orienting veterinary technician students to the function of the ophthalmology section
9. maintains medical, surgical, and lab areas with the equipment and supplies listed for each area and orders replacement or new equipment and supplies as directed
10. cleans exam room and surgical areas
11. maintains records and catalogs of specimens, slides, diagnosis, and case numbers on all ophthalmic pathology cases
12. assists in locating, copying, and filing current ophthalmic literature used by the section
13. performs related duties as assigned

### **Level II: Veterinary Technician (Ophthalmology) II**

**4557(4082)**

Employees in positions at this level supervise and/or train lower level Veterinary Technicians, veterinary medical students, and veterinary technical students and schedule patients for ophthalmic surgery. They work closely with the veterinary ophthalmologist in developing procedures and policies for the section. They perform their duties with relative independence, moving freely throughout the hospital or in an assigned portion of the hospital (i.e., ophthalmology surgery and care) and determining where their services are needed. They receive general supervision from the head of the ophthalmology section and follow both written and oral instructions from the ophthalmologist in charge.

A Veterinary Technician (Ophthalmology) II typically--

1. supervises lower level veterinary technicians and veterinary medical and technical students working in the ophthalmology section
2. supervises lower level technicians and students and assists the veterinary ophthalmologist in charge of out-patient receiving in keeping records, restraining animals, administering diagnostic topical medications, and conducting diagnostic tests indicated by the veterinarian (such as fundus photography, media preparation for microbial, viral, and fungal isolation, tonometry, Schirmer tear testing, use of electroretinography and ultrasonography, photomicroscopy techniques, spectrophotometry,\* and ophthalmoscopy)
3. supervises the stocking and cleaning of medical and surgical areas; supervises veterinary technicians in the ordering of equipment and supplies
4. supervises maintenance of records systems for ophthalmic pathology specimens and microscope slides of cases and establishes and maintains cross-reference files for major eye diseases

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5. supervises and assists other section personnel in teaching laboratories by selecting and setting out equipment needed and assisting directly in teaching ophthalmology skills to veterinary students
6. supervises and assists in hospitalizing animals for medical or surgical treatment
7. assists in locating, copying, and filing current ophthalmic literature used by the section
8. supervises others in the surgery areas in opening and preparing surgical and cryosurgical instruments and equipment prior to surgery and supervises the cleaning and sterilization of instruments and equipment after use
9. performs related duties as assigned

### MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY INTO ALL LEVELS

#### CREDENTIALS TO BE VERIFIED BY PLACEMENT OFFICER

1. (A) possession of minimum acceptable qualifications required for the Veterinary Technician class

and

one year of paramedical veterinary experience comparable to that gained as a Veterinary Technician that included specialized on-the-job training and/or experience in ophthalmological techniques

or

- (B) graduation from a professional nursing program; one additional year of training and/or experience in ophthalmology; and experience in handling animals

#### PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES NEEDED TO UNDERTAKE JOB

1. skill in handling animals
2. ability to perform techniques employed in handling and treatment of different patient species
3. ability to handle large and small animals and to use equipment and supplies safely
4. ability to respond effectively in emergency situations
5. ability to organize and carry out duties efficiently so that time schedules can be met
6. manual dexterity
7. concern for well-being of patients

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8. willingness to work in an environment that may expose employees to zoonoses, air pollutants that may promote the development of abnormalities and disorders, and other health hazards

### ADDITIONAL MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY INTO

#### **Level I: Veterinary Technician (Ophthalmology) I** **4656(4082)**

##### CREDENTIALS TO BE VERIFIED BY PLACEMENT OFFICER

none

##### PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES NEEDED TO UNDERTAKE JOB

1. knowledge of terms commonly used in veterinary ophthalmology
2. knowledge of instruments commonly used in veterinary ophthalmology
3. ability to learn skills required in the adjustment of special equipment
4. ability to handle and maintain sterility of instruments and supplies
5. ability to maintain cleanliness of ophthalmologic suites
6. ability to assist and instruct veterinary medical and technical students and lower level technicians in pre- and post-operative ophthalmic surgical care
7. ability to maintain stock of surgical supplies

#### **LEVEL II: Veterinary Technician (Ophthalmology) II** **4657(4082)**

##### CREDENTIALS TO BE VERIFIED BY PLACEMENT OFFICER

1. two years of paramedical veterinary experience comparable to that gained as a 'Veterinary Technician (Ophthalmology) I level

##### PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES NEEDED TO UNDERTAKE JOB

1. skill in the operation of laboratory equipment
2. ability to supervise lower level technicians and veterinary students
3. ability to instruct lower level technicians and veterinary students in the use and adjustment of specialized equipment
4. ability to instruct lower level technicians and veterinary students in the protocol and procedures used in the handling and surgical care of ophthalmology patients

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5. ability to explain terms used in veterinary ophthalmology
6. ability to accurately record and compile data on ophthalmologic activity
7. ability to read and assimilate technical materials related to veterinary ophthalmology

Veterinary Technician (Ophthalmology) I  
Veterinary Technician (Ophthalmology) II

(NEW)  
(NEW)